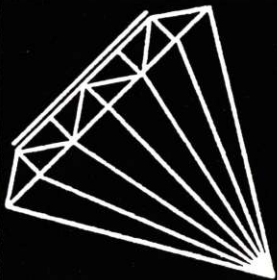


With no end in sight!

story... page 16



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Easter Bonnet Parade at 10:30pm.



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ABOVEGROUND is published monthly by COBALT BLUE with the release date being the first day of each month. Advertising copy deadline is the 15th day of the month previous to release date.

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ABOVEGROUND
PO Box 1656
Allentown, PA
18105-1656
(610)821-1321

With this the April Issue, we set the first half-year mark for AboveGround magazine. We here, have been very encouraged by the enormous amount of support the magazine has received, through its readership, advertisers and writers over the past six months. We look forward to the celebration of our first year anniversary in another six. By that time we hope we will have grown to become a publication you have come to be proud of.

We are still looking to distribute the magazine at locations in Easton, New Hope, and Reading. If you have a business in any of these areas and are interested, please call our office at (610) 821-1321.

We would like to welcome two new regular columns to AboveGround.

"Gayliver's Travels" by Beau Hunter is featured for the first time in this issue. This entertaining column will focus primarily on points of interest outside the Lehigh Valley, as well as on the many happenings that occur along the way.

Jacqueline Marish, M.A., who wrote the cover feature for the March issue, continues with her special insights on how we act and interact throughout our daily lives. She is also featured in a news article this month, (page 28), which gives a little background about her, as well as about one of her colleagues.

Some of our other regular and occasional columnists include Steve Black, covering all aspects of politics, legal issues, and breaking news, Rod Wolfe, with his personal insights to the issues of our day, Aunt Bess, answering your questions about just about anything, Evil Esther, with her somewhat perverted twist on the horoscopes, and C.Robert Frank with his great reviews of newly released music.

To all of these as well as the others who have submitted poetry, art, articles, cartoons, and informative listings, I would like to pass on my personal thanks. Together we have been able to prove that, yes the Valley does have creative, interesting people living in it, and that, we are all more than deserving of a magazine we can call our own!

Currently we are working on adding special promotional incentives to future issues for home subscribers. We hope to be able to offer as part of this, special coupons to area restaurants, businesses, theaters, and stage company productions. These as well as special discounts for future AboveGround cosponsored events, will only be available to the home subscriber. Why not take advantage of these upcoming values by securing one or more years of home delivery for the current, low price of only \$18 per year! And best of all, you will never miss out on another single issue just because you didn't get out to the bar!

M.Hemphill
Editor

Letters

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I had just received our advertisers' copy of Above Ground and was checking out the rest of the publication when "Editor Speaks" caught my eye. "Time to start that Garden?" What's that all about? Taking it literally, and considering that I've already managed to kill four plants since I moved into my new apartment, I sat back to read it.

At first it simply stirred me. And then it made me angry. Very angry. Not at the article, not at the editor, but at the people like myself, *straight* people, still unwilling to recognize the beauty that the gay community brings to our large communal garden. Being a straight person with many gay friends who frequents gay establishments more than others, and being an officer in a gay-positive company that recognizes the diversity, intelligence, and importance of this particular community within the whole, I often forget that the struggle is still there. And I don't feel good about that either way. I don't like forgetting your constant, underlying fight, nor do I like the fact that there is one to begin with. It is like an ever-present entity looming over your heads, a thunderous cloud cover waiting to explode with all its might.

Well, when all that rain comes down, whether a light spring drizzle or a violent storm, remember, it is that rain that makes the garden grow. This rain will strengthen you and give you the courage to keep on fighting for what is right, what is fair, and what is just. And in time, when the weeds are pulled and the ground re-seeded with new roots, then everyone will see the beautiful flowers left to blossom and thrive on the storm *they* thought would bring destruction.

Keep on fighting. Your strength as a community is only measurable if you allow it to be measured. When the rain pours down, let it bring awareness and growth and strength. Because you are *strong*. You are *true*. And most importantly, *you are right*.

Julie Radcliffe
Visual Encounters, Inc.

Julie,

Thank you for the warm and encouraging letter you wrote in response to last month's "Editor Speaks" column. It's always a great pleasure to be reminded of the many members of the heterosexual community who are not afraid to lend their voice in support of the endeavor to achieve equal rights for all individuals.

It would be truly wonderful if, within our life span we could be a part of a time in which all people would willingly give to others the same measure of love and respect that they would assume for themselves. Not to see others as straight, gay, black, green or white, but simply as other unique individuals who share in the wonders of our beautiful planet.

Sure, this is as yet only a utopian dream, but through the dedicated, unbiased help of persons such as yourself, we as a global community will continue to move ever closer to its realization.

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P o e t r y

When A Candle Burns Brightly

Is it all about me?
 Or us?
 Or neither of us?
 sitting on your old fold-out couch
 in the dark,
 candles lit
 but barely alive.

I stare at the fire
 and ask you about the paradox.
 You say you don't know why
 God has made life so unexplainable,
 so confusing.
 Why
 He has given man choice,
 but only His.
 Why
 He has given woman freedom,
 in ideology,
 but not when her legs are in steel stirrups.
 Why
 He has given you faith,
 but sees you as faithless.

My love,
 you have no choice
 but to love,
 against God's will,
 the brown hair that falls over my eye.
 "It's not about us," you say,
 "but about everyone except us."

I lay back
 and think about how alone we really are.
 Not as a single person,
 man or woman,
 together,
 silenced,
 by fears of isolation;
 isolated ourselves
 because of fear.

Irony,
 engulfed in the flame of a candle
 burning lightly,
 just enough to see the smooth curves
 of my lover's body.

-Jamie E. Balliet



ABOVE: Employees and Partiers alike dress up for Stonewall's 1st Mardi Gras Party

PRIDE GUYS JOIN LINE TO SEE GREG LOUGANIS

PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley members John Faggotti and Patrick Goodin journeyed down to Giovanni's Room in Philadelphia on Tuesday, March 13th to meet champion diver, Greg Louganis.

The duo left the Valley early in order to take in dinner before heading over for Greg's book signing; set to begin at 7:00pm. By 5pm the two noticed that a crowd was already forming, and decided to take their place in the line. At 7:30 the doors opened and enthusiastic fans were quickly ushered in and out in groups of about 15 people at a time.

John and Patrick made it in around 8:30 and were directed upstairs where Greg was seated, signing copies of his recently released book, Breaking The

Surface. John stated that Mr. Louganis made small talk with everyone while signing, and that he found him to be genuine, warm, and as he pointed out, "cute too!" After talking briefly to Greg, the two shook hands with him where upon he thanked them and all the other people for coming out to see him.

After leaving Giovanni's Room, Patrick and John walked down Pine Street and noticed that the lines were over two blocks long and continued around the corner. John commented that he had heard that Greg continued signing books until after 11pm. He went on to say that it had been a very nice day and that the large attendance showed a great gesture of support.

If you would like to be listed in the
Coming Events section call AboveGround
at: **(610) 821-1321**

⑧ PRIDE GETS WET !!

Do you remember what you were doing on Sunday, March 12th? Well, if you don't, you obviously missed the 1st annual Pool Party sponsored by PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley! It may still have been too cold to head on down to the beach, but there was plenty of heat at the Sheraton Jetport for this, the first of what will hopefully continue as an, annual event.

For those who attended, the party started at 2pm at the indoor pool of the Sheraton Hotel, located out on Airport Road by the airport, in Allentown, PA. The lack of a well developed tan wasn't about to stop serious fun-seekers from enjoying a day in the pool, sauna, and Jacuzzi. Whether wearing jeans, shorts, trunks, or even thongs, everyone who came out appeared to enjoy themselves at PRIDE's pre-spring social, taking full advantage of the facilities, great picnic foods, and pool-side cocktails.

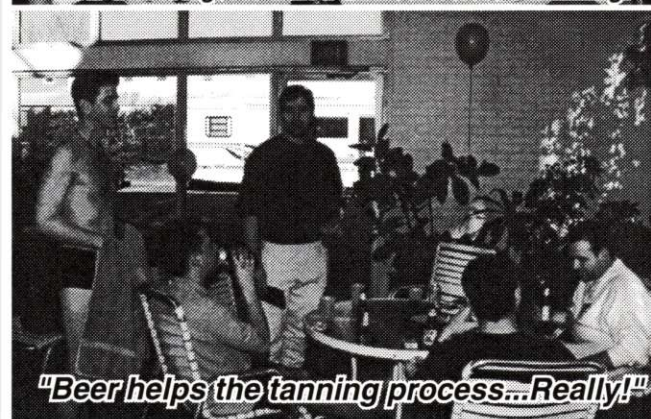
John Faggotti, President of PRIDE, appeared to be in agreement with those who attended in the feeling that the Pool Party could become a very successful annual event of which people would mark their calendar as a "must do." He noted that although this year's party didn't quite reach the attendance goals they had hoped for, it was a great meter of what changes need to be made for upcoming years.

PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley will be holding it's next big event, the 1995 Lehigh Valley PRIDE FESTIVAL, at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown on June 11th. This will be the second annual occurrence of this event which succeeded in bringing out huge numbers of people last year.

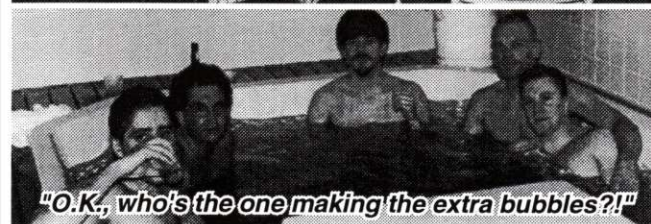
We at AboveGround magazine hope that you all join us in supporting this Fun and Important Festival.



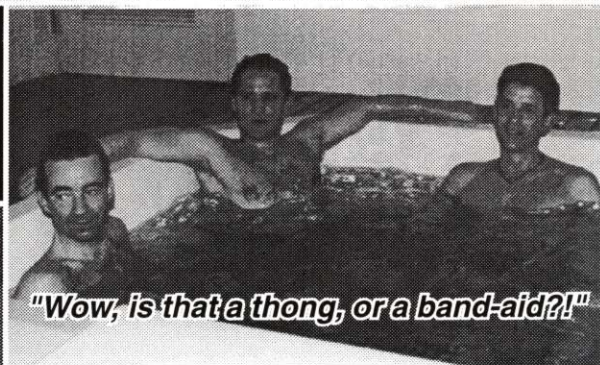
"Now don't forget to wait a 1/2 hour before swimming!"



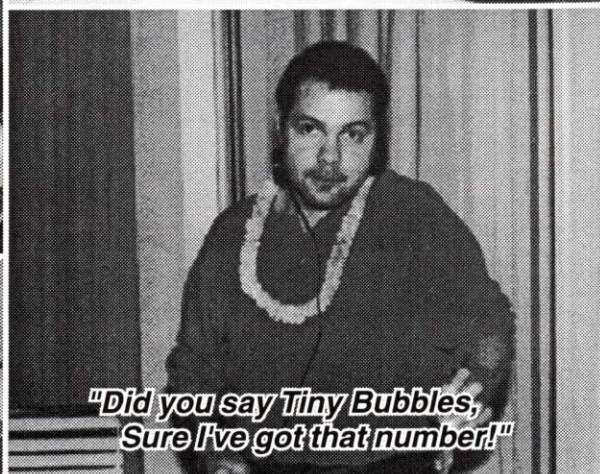
"Beer helps the tanning process...Really!"



"O.K., who's the one making the extra bubbles?"



"Wow, is that a thong, or a band-aid?!"



"Did you say Tiny Bubbles, Sure I've got that number!"

HRCF SPONSORS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, SPEAKER GINGRICH'S LESBIAN SISTER ATTENDS

The weekend of March 4, 5, and 6, brought gay and lesbian political activists from across the county to Washington, DC for the annual Human Right Campaign Fund Leadership Conference. PA League of Gay and Lesbian Voters Vice Chair Steve Black attended the conference. Saturday featured a training seminar for local leaders of the HRCF's Federal Advocacy Network (FAN is HRCF's grassroots letter writing and lobbying group), while Sunday featured speakers including openly gay Republican Congressman Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin. Participants learned polling data and lobbying skills to help gay and lesbian activists more effectively communicate and persuade their congresspeople and senators to support the Employment Non Discrimination Act and the Ryan White CARE Act. On Monday, conference participants scheduled nearly 100 meetings with Congressional Offices.

Candace Gingrich, sister of Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, attended the conference. Candace is from Harrisburg. Speaking to the several hundred activists, Candace Gingrich said, "I'm glad all of you didn't wait until your brother became Speaker of the House to get involved."

Candace Gingrich's appearance at the conference and during the lobby day on Monday brought the event national media attention. Her speech Monday morning was carried live on C-SPAN, and several cameras and reporters followed her, Steve Black, Jim Bryson of the Log Cabin Club, and Nancy Buermeyer of the HRCF, to a morning meeting with Sen. Santorum's staff. News of the meeting was reported on CNN, and radio and television newscasts across the county.

Senator Specter to Support ENDA

An afternoon meeting had been scheduled with Sen. Specter's Staff for 2:00 pm. Black said, "I had been told that Sen. Specter was out of town, but when I showed up at his office for the meeting with the staff, I was told we would now be meeting with the Senator at his presidential campaign headquarters. I believe Sen. Specter changed his mind and decided to meet with us because of the media attention that Candace Gingrich was bringing to the meeting."

The meeting with Specter was attended by Candace Gingrich, Steve Black, Jim Bryson, and Nancy Buermeyer. Gingrich spoke about employment discrimination and how she could be fired from her job simply because she is a lesbian. Bryson spoke about the importance of reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act. The Senator was pretty vague about his position on the issue of AIDS funding.

Black showed Specter a "rather noncommittal" letter he received from the Senator in response to inquiries about ENDA. "At first the Senator responded to my question by saying he doesn't support any form of discrimination, but I said that we would like to know if this bill came to the floor, would you vote for it? Specter said that he would." Black also noted, "This marked the first time that Specter has stated a definite position on ENDA or any gay rights bill. Certainly he is trying to distance himself from the intolerance and anti-gay remarks of other Republican leaders and the religious right. This will help his presidential campaign."

Later in the day, Candace Gingrich met with her congressman, Rep. George Gekas of Harrisburg. Gekas did not commit to support any of the issues raised by Gingrich.

After all the publicity that Candace Gingrich received and an intervening phone call from her sister, Speaker Newt Gingrich agreed to meet with his lesbian sister. Newt Gingrich said of the meeting, "We are an American family, with all the complexity of an American family," but being lobbied by his baby sister on gay and lesbian rights, "is Washington at its most bizarre." He also expressed his love for his sister. The day after meeting, Speaker Gingrich said that he opposed a federal law to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and school programs that promote homosexuality.

-continued, please see HRCF pg.26



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Dark Night of the Soul

by Jacqueline Marish, M.A.

The dark night of the soul... the time when we realized that our soul's orientation is toward the same gender, and the beginning of perceiving everything as no longer sacred. The sacredness of ordinary life may have suddenly become tainted. Small increments of fractures in self-esteem threaten to become fully broken. We become intense observers of our every action, seeing events and behaviors not only from our perspective, but from the perspective of "other."

The dark night of the soul can take us into a maze where we fear we will not be capable of leaving the unknowing, to come into our natural state of knowing. When we are able to leave the maze, we do so either because we find many others also touring the maze, or because someone appears to guide us out.

The dark night gives way to the days light. Each of us needs to move into the light, not to get away from the night because it's frightening, but rather, because we can not know we're in the light if we haven't experienced the dark.

The light side of the soul allows us to know and, most importantly, to accept that our orientation is valid, useful, and dignified. Our orientation, our essence of our being, does not preclude us from having values, morals, integrity, standards, hopes and fears. By honoring ourselves as one who has the ability to love, we celebrate that ability, that essence of a loving core deep within. The ability to love transcends whom we love! The ability to love is sacred. It needs no religion, no familial sanction, no social sanction. What is needed is a deep commitment to honor one's self. The maze is only without an end if we allow others to convince us of their conclusion, of their fear that there may not be an end for us. The maze is only ongoing if we refuse to accept the sacredness of our light. Each of us has the power to turn off the dark night-light of the soul.

MARGARETHE CAMMERMEYER, SUBJECT OF TV MOVIE, TO SPEAK AT NCC

submitted by Northampton Community College

Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, whose discharge from the U.S. military on grounds she is a lesbian, the basis of a network television movie, will speak at 7 p.m. April 12 in the Theatre at Northampton Community College.

Her lecture is free and open to the public.

Cammermeyer, a decorated Army nurse whose discharge focused widespread media attention on U.S. military policy regarding homosexuality, will sign copies of her book, "Serving in Silence," following her lecture.

The autobiography was the basis of a network movie titled "Serving In Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story," with Glenn Close cast as Cammermeyer. The movie was aired by NBC on Feb. 6.

In 1989, Cammermeyer applied for a job as Chief Nurse of the National Guard. During a routine security-clearance interview, she responded to a question about homosexuality by saying: "I am a lesbian."

Cammermeyer was discharged in 1992, a move she appealed in court.

In June 1994, a Federal judge in Seattle ordered her reinstated, saying the military's policy on homosexuals at the time of her discharge was based only on prejudice and violated the Constitution's equal-protection clause.

Cammermeyer returned to the National Guard after her 1994 reinstatement, and remains in the post while her court decision is appealed.

Born in Norway in 1942, the oldest of four children, Cammermeyer and her family moved to Washington, D.C. when she was nine years old; she became a U.S. citizen in 1960.

While enrolled in college, Cammermeyer enlisted in the Army student nurse program. She subsequently served as head nurse of an evacuation hospital in Vietnam, earning a Bronze Star. She married fellow soldier Harvey Hawken during a tour of duty in Germany. After returning to the States, Cammermeyer moved to Seattle and gave birth to the first of her four sons. A military regulation barring women with dependents from serving had caused her to separate from the Army in 1968.

That regulation was overturned in 1972. Cammermeyer returned to the military, this time as a member of the army Reserves; she achieved the rank of colonel in 1987. Cammermeyer had also gone back to school, earning a master's in nursing, a post-master's



Steve Black

A t t o r n e y

Vice Chair
League of Gay &
Lesbian Voters

1322 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-865-7890

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Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-735-0852

in neuroscience and a Ph.D. in nursing science. She and her husband divorced in 1980. Cammermeyer was named Chief Nurse of the Washington State National Guard in 1988. In addition to the Bronze Star, Cammermeyer has been named "Woman of the Year" by the Woman's Army Corps Veterans and earned the Meritorious Service Medal of the Army Reserves and "Nurse of the Year" recognition from the Veteran's Administration.

Her lecture at Northampton is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Bi Student Union at Northampton, with support from the Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian Task Force, student groups at Moravian and Lafayette colleges, and community organizations and individuals.

For more information, please contact Fran Szutar, Director - Public Information, Northampton Community College, at (610) 861-5453.

Hate Crimes Bill Update

In the last issue of Above Ground, we reported that Sen. Joe Uliana's position on the Hate Crimes Bill was unknown. Since that time, League of Gay and Lesbian Voters Vice Chair Steve Black and Lehigh Valley Coordinator Bob Jacobs met with Uliana at his Bethlehem Office. At that meeting, Sen. Uliana said he would support the bill, but would not co-sponsor. Since that time the Morning Call has run an editorial strongly supporting the bill. Sen. Uliana has now signed on to the Hate Crimes Bill as a co-sponsor. LGLV encourages residents of Sen. Uliana's district to send him letters thanking him for his co-sponsorship. Letters can be sent to: The Honorable Joe Uliana, P.O. Box 18, Pennsylvania Senate, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

The Hate Crimes Bill has also been introduced in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. Rep. Charlie Dent (R) and Rep. Pat Browne (R) of Allentown and Rep. TJ Rooney (D) of Bethlehem have signed on as co-sponsors. LVLG encourages constituents of these representatives to send them letters thanking them for their co-sponsorship. Letters can be sent to the Representatives at: PA House of Representatives, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020.

Coming Events

Fund-raisers

Saturday, April 1st - 8pm

"BE A FOOL FOR THE ARTS" Party

to benefit Open Space Gallery call: 432-3091

Sunday, April 23rd - 3pm

BINGO AT DIAMONZ

To benefit L.V.G.L.T.F.

Tuesday, April 25th - 10am-10pm

MACY'S BENEFIT SHOPPING DAY

To benefit F.A.C.T. & others.

For Details, call: (610) 820-5519

Sunday, April 30th - 6:30pm

ASC "STAR SERVER" DINNER

Allentown Hilton, Hamilton Mall

For tickets & info, call: (610) 974-8701

Sunday, April 30th - 5pm-9pm

BINGO AT STONEWALL

To benefit FACT's Family Support Services

Sunday, May 21st

F.A.C.T. features "The Party of the Decade"

for details, call: (610) 820-5519

Club Events

Diamonz (610)865-1028

*Easter Party - Sun. April 16th

*Wheel of Torture - Thurs. April 13th & 27th

*B.K.B. Party - Sun. April 23rd

*Country Western Night - Every Friday-8pm

*Movie Night - Every Monday - 7pm

Stonewall / Moose Lounge (610)432-0215

*The Annual Beach Party - Fri. April 21st

*All Age Night - Every Monday - 10pm-2am

*Country Western Night - Every Tues. - 8pm

Misc. Events

Saturday, April 8th - 2pm

Circle of Women Writers, public reading

Open Space Gallery, Allentown, PA

Sunday, April 16th - 7pm

MCC EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

St. John's UCC - 6th & Walnut

Thursday, April 20th - 7pm

Lecture by therapist MARY KIERNAN

Unitarian Univ. Church of Lehigh Valley

701 Lechaweki Ave., Fountain Hill.



The painting depicted at the left, is a good place to start when talking about our feature artist for the month.

Nedine Hake Buck, a local folk artist, was one of the last generations to go to a little one-

room schoolhouse like the one here in her painting. Growing up on a rural Pennsylvania farm turned out to be a key factor in Nedine's love of creating primitive oil paintings. Of even more influence were her teenage summers spent with Amish friends in Lancaster. She developed a love for the both the Amish and Mennonite crafts and for their simple ways of life.

From these early influences, she was able to later incorporate both her childhood memories and scenic rural area into her own, self taught, style of painting. For those not familiar with the "primitive" style of painting, it is often thought to look like the work of children. However, once one begins to notice the work's detailed reminders in conjunction with that

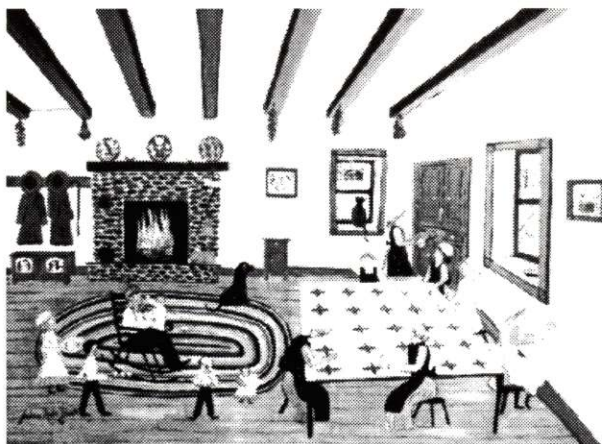
childlike form, it becomes easy to be drawn into the nostalgic feeling it portrays.

Nedine, who has been painting professionally for around eighteen years now, feels she inherited a lot of her artistic abilities from family members. She showed us a pencil portrait that her mother, a former Broadway actress, had made when she

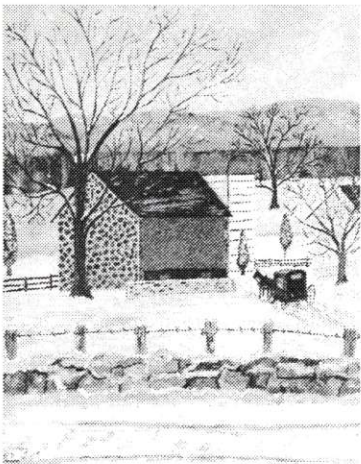


was a young woman. She told us that her mother had never thought much of her own work, although obviously quite good, and had thrown away all but one of her sketches before passing away. Nedine's Grandfather also showed a talent for art, and had won first prize at a Michigan State Fair for one of his ink paintings.

Wherever Nedine developed her talents from, they have not gone unnoticed. She has had her works



shown in galleries in New York, Baltimore, and Washington, DC. From the many contests she has entered her paintings into, she has received numerous awards. Some of those that she is most proud of include "Christmas Eve on Linden Way" which won the Allentown Downtown Improvement Christmas card design for 1992. The money she was awarded for that prize she graciously donated to F.A.C.T. Two other awards that Nedine is particularly proud of are The Frank H. Walser Memorial Award and "First Prize in Oils" from Perkiomen Valley Art Center. Both of these





awards were for her work, "Airing the Quilts" which is pictured within, to the top right. Another of her paintings titled "March Winds" hangs in President Grant's Mansion in New York State.

As is often the case, success does have its drawbacks. Back around 1992, a then trusted friend who did framing and photography for Nedine, used copies of the photographs in an attempt to steal some of her prized works. The individual commissioned a person to copy the paintings from the photographs, and then signed his own name to them. After her daughter pointed out seeing these fraudulent copies for sale in a gallery, Nedine was forced to hire a copyright attorney to have the matter taken care of. Although she won the battle, it ended up costing her quite a bit of money and endless hours of stress. As a result, however, she now immediately copyrights all of her works to discourage any others from attempting such a crime.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit with Nedine, as well as her tour of some of the rural settings which influenced both her paintings and her life. Her original primitive oil paintings range in price from \$175 - \$500 and have commanded prices at auction of up to five thousand dollars. She also has limited prints available of selected original paintings, starting at \$175.

If you would like more information about Nedine Hake Buck paintings and prints, please contact her directly by calling (215) 234-8268 or write to her at 3339 Salford Station Road, Perkiomenville, PA 18074.



Showings

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Bricchetto, Buningh, & Porgornik

Featured Ceramists
Nalle, Meyer, Herman, Ginger Blue Studio

Featured Photography
Karen Else

Featured Sculptors
Perkin, Baxter, Haw Creek Forge

Featured Serigraphs by
Douglas Vokes

Key West Fantasy Prints by
Philip Rote

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913 Hamilton Mall
Allentown, PA (610) 432-3091

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for
Greg Weaver
Visual Exhibition runs through May 6th

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Why the 1995 Elections Are Important for the Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian Community

by *Steve Black*

Off year elections like those which will be held in May and November of this year usually generate little interest, but often it is these types of elections that have the greatest impact on the gay and lesbian community. 1995 is a year for municipal elections, that means County Row Offices, City and Borough Councils, Township supervisors, and School Boards. These offices may seem unimportant, but increasingly many of the important policy decisions and innovative changes are occurring at this local government level.

Stopping The Religious Right

The tactics of the Christian Coalition show that the right wing has recognized the power and influence associated with local offices and the impact their membership can have on local elections. As Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition stated, "The real battles of concern to Christians are in neighborhoods, school boards, city councils, and state legislatures." The Christian Coalition sponsors training seminars and prints guides that train its members to run for councils and school boards as stealth candidates. They run for local office by attacking high taxes and campaigning through churches. The Pennsylvania Christian Coalition handbook instructs members, "...You should never mention the name Christian Coalition in Republican Circles." These candidates hide their true anti-gay and lesbian, anti-sex education, anti-birth control, and mandatory school prayer agenda behind their anti-tax rhetoric. Then after they are in office, they attack guidance programs, sex education, AIDS prevention, multi-cultural education and non discrimination policies.

A group with similar tactics and goals is Citizens for Excellence in Education. This group has been

particularly active in the Lehigh Valley. The best known example is the take over of the Saucon Valley School Board in 1991. After winning a majority, they began attacking self-esteem programs offered by the guidance department as hypnotic. The CEE school board members threw the school district into disarray. In other districts, school directors associated with CEE or the Christian Coalition begin to ban books from the library and promote "abstinence based sex education." In New York City, the Christian Coalition was instrumental in attacking the Rainbow Curriculum, which included acceptance of gay men and lesbians.

Once in office, Christian Coalition members use their positions as a base of influence and power. They attempt to control the Republican Party and its committee structure. They support only candidates who pass their religious litmus test. They use their positions on school boards and councils as a training ground and spring board to seek higher offices.

The Lesbian and Gay Community can help to stop candidates associated with the Christian Coalition and other right wing groups. Gay men and lesbians can cast their votes against such candidates. The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters will attempt to identify as many of these radical right candidates as possible in its Voters' Guide. Gay men and lesbians can take the lead in exposing these candidates and their hidden agenda.

Civil Rights Ordinances in Allentown and Bethlehem

Currently only five cities in Pennsylvania have civil rights ordinances that include sexual orientation. These include Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Lancaster and York. Gay men and lesbians in the Lehigh Valley are not protected from discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodations. The time has come for the cities of Allentown and Bethlehem to join this list.

The Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian Task Force has been laying the ground work to begin the long hard battle for sexual orientation to be included in Allentown and Bethlehem's civil rights ordinances. Dr. Manuel Gonzalez and Chris Ackner have been appointed to the Allentown Human Relations Commission. Ackner and Gonzalez have had numerous meeting and discussions with members of the commission to gain their advice and support. LVGLTF has established reporting procedures for incidents of discrimination and is preparing a discrimination survey that will provide

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statistical data to be used in lobbying the city council members.

In 1995, three members of the Allentown City Council and three members of the Bethlehem City Council will be elected. Gay men and lesbians must find out how the candidates for these seats stand on the issue of adding sexual orientation to the Human Relations ordinances. Gay men and lesbians then must show up and vote for the candidates that support our interests. Electing candidates who are sympathetic to our issues is the first and most important step toward obtaining civil rights protections.

Voting in the Primary Elections

Many times people do not vote in primary election because they consider them unimportant. However, to the gay and lesbian community primary elections are of great importance. First, if a candidate who supports gay and lesbian issues does not win the primary, she cannot even run in the general election. Second, because turnout among eligible voters is light in municipal primaries, a concentrated and effective campaign to encourage gays and lesbians to vote, will

give our community a greater impact on the election results.

The gay and lesbian community must learn from the tactics of the Christian Coalition. We can fight their agenda and advance our own community's interests simply by exercising our right to vote.

The last day to register to vote before the May Primary Elections is Monday, April 17. Displays with voter registration forms will be placed in Stonewall, Diamonz, and Candida's. Only people registered with a political party will be able to vote for candidates in the primary. This means that only Republicans and Democrats will be eligible to cast ballots for candidates. People registered as Independents and No Affiliations will only be allowed to vote on the ballot questions. People may change their party affiliation by completing a new registration form. If you would like more information about registering to vote please call the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters - Lehigh Valley Chapter - c/o Bob Jacobs at 437-2294 or Steve Black 865-7890.

YOU TALK ME TO DEATH !!

by B. Lee

For a brief moment last month, we were able to hear about something on the news other than the OJ trial proceedings. Unfortunately however, it was, as one would expect, only more bad news.

Apparently from what news stories led us to believe, a young man killed a close friend as a result of a taping, gone awry, of the Jenny Jones talk show. Although the episode was not aired, either by the choice of the producers or by authorities, it did in fact take place, resulting in the death of one young man at the hands of his friend. As reported, the episode involved a theme in which guests were to surprise the victims of their hidden secret desires with the proclamation of this information, publicly and on National TV. The person who later lost his life, was a guest on this show. He admitted his homosexuality, and then told of his secret love and sexual desires for a close male friend, who was reportedly deceived into coming onto the show on the pretense that his friend's secret desires were to be announced about a mutual female friend. Many of the details of what transpired beyond that point have already been twisted by the media through their overpowering urge to sensationalize everything.

The true underlying cause of this horrible occurrence, though possibly clouded by the media itself, has nothing to do with homosexuality whatsoever. We cannot possibly know exactly what was going through this young man's mind, or what caused him to take his friend's life, but surely the lack of honesty from his friend, as well

as feeling publicly humiliated must have played a key factor.

Talk Show Trash. Yes I've said it and I can feel comfortable with myself, even though I know I have watched them. Being a night owl, I have often found myself with nothing left on the television but "Infomercials" and bottom of the barrel Talk Shows. About a month before this story hit the news, I was watching another, "what's on my shoe", Talk Show, The Jerry Springer Show. This show rates right up there, or more accurately right down in the mud, with shows such as Richard Bey, Jenny Jones, and Ricki Lake to name just a few.

On this particular taping, the subject matter was focused on telling your significant other, on national TV, who you had slept around with but never fessed up to. A man, married with children, decided that this would be the appropriate time to confess to his wife that he had slept with, none other than, their teenage babysitter. I've often thought that these shows are just as rehearsed as professional wrestling, but after seeing the immediate, heart-wrenching reaction of his wife on TV, I knew she would have been nominated for an Oscar, if only performing. To top this off, the producers chose to follow with the appearance of the babysitter, as if there were not already enough salt pouring into this crushed woman's wounds. After the commercial break, the couple was no longer present on the panel, further leading me to believe that this poor lady just couldn't take any more. I remember thinking to myself that this obvious emotional exploitation used by

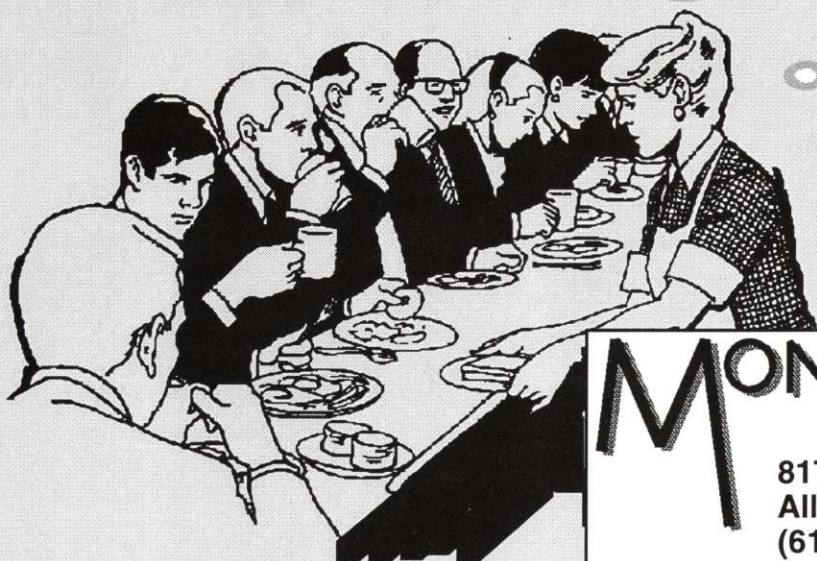
these Talk Show hosts and their producers, was sure to lead to something terrible happening sooner or later.

Sooner came, and just as the case of this married couple, someone decided, surely through no prodding of the Talk Show advertisements, to publicly announce something that should have been only discussed, if at all, in private. And who is really to blame for the over-abundance of this Talk Show Trash? Is it us for even watching a minute of them? Is it the money hungry hosts and producers who are only following the sensationalizing lead set forth by so many other branches of the media? Is

it the networks, affiliates, or local stations fault for not offering us anything better to watch?

I for one, have always been a staunch believer against generalized censorship, but have decided to take matters into my own hand. I am still, and will probably always be, a night-owl, surfing the channels during those unsavory viewing hours. But with my weapon in hand, when presented with the narrow options of either "Infomercials" or "Talk Show Trash", I push the button, and remember that, Yes, I can read!(Unless, of course I'm really sure I need a seventh set of Ginsu knives!)

I love Monterey so much, I quit my career as a bank executive to work at Monterey. Now I can eat Frank's food every day!



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Music

Annie Lennox

Title : MEDUSA
Artist : Annie Lennox
Reviewer : C. Robert Frank
Rating : 4 stars

I figured before reviewing Medusa, I should do a little reading from cover to cover.

- Percy Sledge should shoot Michael Bolton, actually anyone should shoot Michael Bolton.

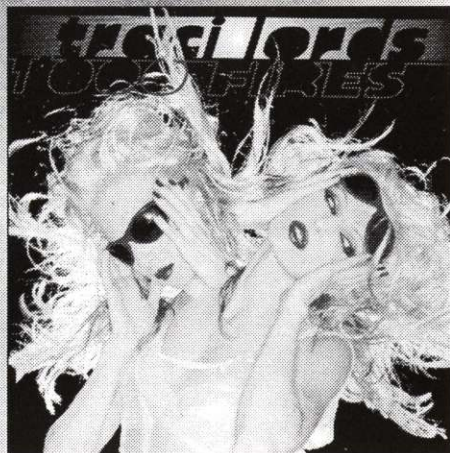
- I remember when Gloria Estefan could come up with her own dance classics.

- If you want to dance to your favorite Lite FM hits like "Total Eclipse Of The Heart," play the original on a 78 RPM phonograph.

- Why is Luther Vandross singing Karaoke hits?

Now I don't mind a few oldie but goodies, I just praised Chante' Moore last month for her cover work, but hasn't this trend gone a bit too far? Medusa is the newest release from a major artist who wants to sing "some of her favorites." What makes the disc work where so many others fail is that this is straight forward Annie Lennox! Reinterpretations, not just re-sings. Her voice has always reminded me of chalk on a blackboard; usually uncomfortably soothing, but occasionally squealing, causing pain and delight all at once. Her arrangements have always been just right; nicely stripped, uncovering, but richly over-dubbed. Each song sounds like an Annie Lennox song, not Lennox sings Marley, or Simon, or Young.

If you are a DJ or VJ and would like to have your reviews or Top Ten listed in AboveGround call: (610) 821-1321 or send them to:
AboveGround
P.O. Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656



Video Hot Picks

VJ : Miltzi D - STONEWALL

1. **Harmonica Man**
BRAVADO
2. **Dreamer**
LIVIN JOY
3. **Atomic (RMX)**
BLONDIE
4. **Waterfall**
ATLANTIC OCEAN
5. **Every Time You Touch Me**
MOBY
6. **I Feel Love**
MESSIAH
7. **Saturday Night**
WHIGFIELD
8. **Control**
TRACI LORDS
9. **Cotton Eyed Joe**
REDNEX
10. **Sky High**
NEWTON

Title : THE BEST OF NEW ORDER

Artist : New Order

Reviewer : C. Robert Frank

Rating : 4 stars

There was a time when the world sounded like New Order ...or was that talk of a New World Order? Remember Red Flag, Box Car, Cause & Effect? Well, New Order was one of the defining groups of 80's Alternative Dance Bands. What I enjoy most about this disc is hearing the three distinctive sounds New Order has gone through, what I hate is that "Shellshock" is nowhere to be found.

Title : 1,000 FIRES

Artist : Traci Lords

Reviewer : C. Robert Frank

Rating : 2 stars

Porno to Waters to Recording Studio?

Reluctantly I plopped Traci Lords' CD into the player, after all, I had already used the first 12" single as a Frisbee on one of those warm spring-like days! By the time the 8th track dragged by, I thought: "is it over yet?" Suddenly a glimmer of hope... "Father's Field," then right back into the swamp with the pathetic "Okey-Dokey." The simple saving grace of this disc is June Reactor. As producers, they create some nicely textured mood works which adequately cover Lords' flat on her back vocals. 1,000 Fires is more like a childproof lighter, all too annoying.

DJ's TOP TEN

DJ : Mike Tolleson

Bar: DIAMONZ

1. **Running Away**
NICOLE
2. **Open Your Heart**
M PEOPLE
3. **Let's Start Over**
PAMELA FERNANDEZ
4. **Runaway**
REAL MCCOY
5. **Hold Me**
STEPZ
6. **Dreamer**
LIVIN JOY
7. **Everything**
HYSTERIX
8. **Heartbeat**
JIMMY SOMERVILLE
9. **Personality**
GILLETTE
10. **I Need Somebody**
LOVELAND

DJ : Dean Walbridge

Bar: STONEWALL

1. **Body To Body**
SHADES OF LOVE
2. **Brinca**
RALPHI ROSARIO
3. **Drop A House**
URBAN DISCHARGE
4. **Atomic (RMX)**
BLONDIE
5. **Bottom Heavy**
DANNY TENAGLIA
6. **QUE MI**
BLAKE BAXTER
7. **(Y?)**
KIWI DREAMS
8. **House Forever**
2 CLUES²
9. **Your Loving Arms**
BILLIE RAY MARTIN
10. **Respect**
JUDY CHEEKS

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Civic Little Theatre

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April 28th - May 6th

for box office info call:

(610) 432-8943

Moravian College Theatre

CABARET

April 21-23 & 25-30

for box office info call:

(610) 862-1489

Muhlenberg Theatre Association

A CHORUS LINE

Continuing through April 9th

for box office info call:

(610) 821-3333

PA STAGE

TIN TYPES

April 5th - 30th

for box office info call:

(610) 433-3394

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(215) 536-3545

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AboveGround is looking for an individual with background knowledge of theater to write reviews of local productions on a monthly basis. Interested persons should call (610)821-1321.

NEW SITCOM AT STONEWALL

Thursday, April 6th, the Stonewall will present the opening episode of Jerry Schmidt's latest situation comedy, "Lipstick and Liposuction."

This is the latest of Jerry's offbeat comedies which are acted out live in the "disco theatre" by the Stonewall's own "Enigma Players."

"Lipstick and Liposuction" promises to be a hilariously entertaining show which focuses on the interaction of Jerry's own wacky characters with the well-known celebrities, Jenny Craig and Mary Kay. A sneak peak at the early scripts was all we needed to realize that Jerry has once again unleashed his bizarre sense of humor and created yet another gem to keep us rolling with laughter!

Show dates for "Lipstick and Liposuction" are April 6, 13, 20, and 27 starting at 11:30 in the Stonewall Disco.

JIMMY JAMES RETURNS TO THE VALLEY

Sunday, April 30th, Diamonz (1913 w. Broad St. Bethlehem, PA) will proudly present Mr. Jimmy James, the nationally acclaimed singer and performer.

Jimmy has been applauded for his live visual and vocal impressions from Florida to NYC to LA. If you were able to catch his performance the last time he was around, or have seen him while vacationing, you will surely not want to miss him when he comes back to the Valley.

Jimmy will be performing for one show only at Diamonz, in Bethlehem. Tickets have already gone on sale, so you may want rush on over before they are all gobbled up!



We're looking for volunteers to help organize the 1995 PRIDE Festival!!!

Join us on Sunday, April 2nd, 4:00pm at Grace Covenant Fellowship - 247 N. 10th St. or for more information call (610) 770-6200

Club Performance

DIAMONZ

Saturday, April 8th
Kate & CJ

Saturday, April 22nd
Diane Ponzio

Sunday, April 30th
Jimmy James

STONEWALL

Wednesdays, April 5th & 19th
Tinsel Garland

Thursdays, starting April 6th
"Lipstick and Liposuction"

Saturday, April 8th
Michael Ferrari

Friday, April 28th
Elaine Paxson
with
Christian Daizey

Karaoke

Where you're the Star!

Candida

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DIAMONZ

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Every Sunday 7pm - 2am

Stonewall / Moose Lounge

Every Sunday 10pm - 2am

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Horrorscoops

by Evil Esther



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb.18

A "twin jugs" month, by the looks of it! By this I am referring to a possible alliance with another water carrier. Watch out how close you become though, as two Aquarians together could spell disaster.



PISCES

Feb.19-March 20

"Fish gotta swim, birds gotta fly... Yeah sure! This little tune isn't going to pull you out of hot water if you get caught swimming in someone else's fishbowl. Keep an eye out for baited hooks, someone is looking to reel you in!



ARIES

March 21-April 19

April could be a month for you to show your stronger nature. Although you may seem to others as spineless, this will be your time to shine. Don't let others' confusion stop you from meeting all of your goals. Watch out for Leo!



TAURUS

April 20-May 20

What a brown-noser! Well that's what others may be saying about you this month. You finally work up enough gumption to complete a real days work, and look what it gets you! That's OK you'll fall behind again in no time!



GEMINI

May 21-June 20

All I can say for you is that it might be a good idea to keep your eye off of Uranus this month! Of course the planet! You may find yourself feeling secure about the outcome of future goals which are simply not meant to be achieved.



CANCER

June 21-July 22

Towards month's end you may get praise from people for your proper use of leadership skills. Don't let this lull you into a false sense of security too early because there is always going to be at least one fly ready to muck up the ointment!



LEO

July 23-Aug.22

This could prove to be a time where you will wish you had just kept that big mouth shut! An overbearing desire to push marital advice on an other couple wouldn't be advisable seeing as you can't even hold down the tacks on your own.



VIRGO

Aug.23-Sept.22

You know that change you've been wanting to make, but have been putting off for so long? Well this is your shot for the golden ring. If you don't take it now, those overly cautious ways of yours will prevent any further chance.



LIBRA

Sept.23-Oct.22

Don't let the fact that everyone seems to be avoiding you lead to your mouthing off to higher ups. You may find yourself out of a job, only after finding out that by avoiding you they were all just doing you a favor. Try to keep a cool head.



SCORPIO

Oct.23-Nov.21

No problem catching someone's eye this month. But be warned that the one who you fall for, may only be looking for another conquest. You could be just another trophy which will do nothing to prevent another hunt.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov.22-Dec.21

This month's full moon will be causing more than just water motion. It could lead you toward locomotion, as in a change of address perhaps. People you meet will seem nice, but will not be able to fill your needs.



CAPRICORN

Dec.22-Jan.19

Gadzoos! It looks like a good time to batten down the hatches and get ready for some rain! No matter how hard you try, everything you do won't seem good enough to someone. Let it slide, confrontation won't work!

*Horrorscoops are published for entertainment purposes only. Anyone running their life based on them is obviously in need of good therapy!! Life is short. Have a little Fun!!

Hate Crimes

by Rod Wolfe

23

Two teenage boys murder their mother, father, and younger brother, apparently over religious beliefs, and the Lehigh valley is left with nothing but perplexing questions. What type of impulse could drive two young men into the murder of their own families? How could anyone be so distraught over religion as to cause them to murder their own parents?

Bryan and David Freeman are known skinheads. What type of hate could this neo-nazi group breed to cause such discontent in the youth? The skinheads are part of a white supremacy group that believes in the destruction of society as we know it. Among other things they believe that Jews and homosexuals should be killed, and all "mud people", or people of any other skin pigment but white, should only be owned by the Aryan heritage. It should be clear to the world, at least those in the Lehigh Valley, that the white supremacists are extremely dangerous and volatile, and in the case of the Freeman brothers, they are more than willing to eliminate whatever is in their path, including their own families, no matter how trivial the issue may appear.

The Freeman homicide is not an isolated case, although, due to its nature, we have almost forgotten that it is a hate crime. In a February report, Attorney General Ernie Preate Jr. reported that hate crimes in the state of Pennsylvania were up 130%. After a two year report, the Attorney General's office reported that the majority (56%) of hate crimes were committed by persons between 11 and 20 years old. The study also reported at least 40 known Ku Klux Klan, Skinhead and other White Supremacist groups active in the State. It is this type of activity that has the Gay and Lesbian groups worried, and with good reason.

In Arizona, hate crimes for 1994 were up by 300%, and attacks against homosexuals accounted for the #2 hate crime in the city of Phoenix.

Gays and Lesbians have been pleading with their legislators for more protection, both in the workplace and at home. The issues across the country have been anti-discrimination in nature, simply asking to have our existence acknowledged. We have asked for the same rights granted to other citizens of the country, the same rights enjoyed by the White Supremacist neo-nazi groups, and the Christian Fundamentalists. As we petition our elected officials, more gay bashings and homicides occur across the country. Some states have enacted policies to protect the rights we had until we came out of the closet, some have decided to slam the door.

In Pennsylvania, we have seen several positive actions to help gays and lesbians in the struggle to be protected by the same laws that protect our attackers. Several local congresspersons have signed the Non-

Discrimination Pledge and others have endorsed the Hate Crimes Bill. Both actions should be celebrated by the community. Could this faint glitter of light at the end of the tunnel actually be the evil glow of the head lamp of an oncoming hate train from hell?

This fall the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether voters can pass laws that take away the rights of homosexuals. This issue has divided states and cities, and now the Supreme Court will decide if the majority can block laws protecting the minority. According to Suzanne Goldberg, a lawyer with the Lambda Legal defense and a co-counsel in the case, "If voters are permitted to block government from protecting one minority group against discrimination, in this case lesbians, gays and bisexuals, they similarly can prevent government from protecting any other minority group, with the possible exception of racial minorities."

The outlook is as yet undetermined. If the Supreme Court decides that voters can take away the rights of minorities, any advances made within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be at the hands of the majority. How do you think the Supreme Court will act?

As far as the federal court system goes, 60% of current Federal Judges have been appointed by Republican Presidents. The GOP is supported, and largely controlled, by the Christian Fundamentalist nazi movement. The Fundinazis are of the belief that anything that doesn't conform to their narrow, convenient interpretation of life should be deemed immoral.

Remember, the Freeman brothers committed an atrocity based on religion. There is no limit to hate, and in order to protect ourselves, we must contact our legislators as well as the Federal Judges to protect us. It is indeed the minority that needs protection from the rampant majority.

**Make sure your ad will
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"24" GAYLUVER'S TRAVELS"

by Beau Hunter

Last summer, a friend from Boston stopped by. Now this was strange because Clif rarely left Boston. Oh, maybe he went to the shore, or skiing, but not places like the Lehigh Valley.

"I'm moving to Texas!" Clif announced. He might as well have said Antarctica, since both are places I'd never go.

"Clif, you're not moving to meet men, are you? You know my feelings about that. I went to Ohio to meet farmers, Virginia for sailors, and Maine for logging men. What I found was gay men who dress like farmers, sailors and loggers."

"I have a new job." Clif announced.

"...and?" I asked.

"a raise...and a bigger apartment!"

"Well, hello Texas!" I replied.

Now it's six months later and it's cold. I'm on a plane to Austin, Texas. (I didn't know anyone in southern Florida, this year). When I've called Clif he's seemed happy, so I figured he really found something there.

What he found was a growing metro area (about 485,000) with friendly people, lots of activities, and warm weather.

So, what is there to do? Well, on Thursday, the local paper had a 100 page entertainment and activity guide. A sample included a big music festival downtown, a kite competition in the parks, and a local film festival on the U. of T. campus.

The University of Texas is a community of over 40,000 students with a whole array of campus activities. Walk down Guadeloupe, the main street by the college, and feel the excitement. Thousands of students (and wannabe students) mingle with the tourists to shop the stores or to check out the items for sale on the "blanket" shops hastily set up along the sidewalks.

"Hippies" abound here. Supposedly large numbers of sixties drop-outs moved to Austin, and many still remain. Besides, I was told, the police don't strongly enforce laws against pot smoking. (However, you will be stopped for not wearing a seat-belt and get a hefty fine!)

The other main street in town is Congress, which leads to the Capitol complex. Built from local pink (love the color) granite, the Statehouse is something to be seen. Guided tours are available Tuesday through Saturday, but I went Monday. (Who knew?). A group of elderly ladies managed a tour, regardless, and they urged I do the same. "They'll get you a handsome young man to show you around." Taunted, but too late, I left for dinner.

Restaurants are everywhere in Austin. Some are very good. One hour or more waits are common, so go with people you want to talk to. You'll have time. Go early, too, or you'll get to eat at that restaurant next to the really great one!

Outdoor dining is very popular because of the nice weather, but watch out for the grackles. These local black birds, that make a large range of strange sounds, are protected and seem to know it. They swoop over to steal your food, and after a drink from the fountain, will boldly walk inside.

Night life is every night in Austin. Sixth Street swings with the sound of music until the wee hours. This reborn area of restaurants, clubs, shops, and art galleries has a carnival atmosphere, especially on weekends. It is little wonder that there is almost no housing downtown, with the constant party going on. There are several hotels, though mostly around \$100 per night.

There are approximately ten gay clubs in town, most within walking distance of each other. Names and decors keep changing, so check the Fag Rag, the local gay paper, to be current. Oilcan Harry's (211 W. 4th St.) is a long time favorite. Labeled "preppy" and "upscale", this is where the crowd goes. Club 404 (404 Colorado, at 4th St.) is the hot dance club. Great sound, lights, video, and catwalks are the draw. Come out late as it is also an after hours club. 5th St. Station (505 E. 5th) is where I saw the most cowboy hats while in Austin. This country bar has a big dance floor, a huge outdoor patio, and is known for its spectacular Sunday drag shows. Cowboys (705 Red River) is a newer c/w bar and needs a crowd. Shot boys in their underwear are starting to help. There is also a leather shop inside the club. Chain Drive (504 Willow) is s/m and also has a leather shop in the club. Easier parking and cheap drink prices bring in the crowds. DJ's (611 Red River) has been lavishly refurbished. A comfortable atmosphere and intimate patio should make this a popular club.

continued, please see AUSTIN pg.27

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Ask AUNT BESS

Dear Bess,

I really don't have a problem to ask about, I am more interested in you. I've been reading your column since it appeared in the paper, and have noticed that you seem to answer questions about a wide range of topics. I have not been able to determine, from your writing, whether you are old or young, from here or outside the area, or even if you are really a woman, as your name would imply. I don't want to sound negative, and your advice to this point has seemed sound, but aren't you worried about saying the wrong thing to someone that could lead to unfortunate consequences? For all of us out here, who is the person behind that kindly looking cartoon?!

Ps. please sign me as Curious George!

Dear Curious,

All I can, or will, say to you is simply that "I am that I am!" Hopefully I won't be punished too severely for borrowing that line! In truth, however, I can honestly say that my name hasn't always been Aunt Bess. The caricature you see and the name itself were both selected before I actually signed on to do this column. I must admit though, that I have come to kind of like it. It reminds me of an Aunt I loved very dearly. In answer to you queries about my age, home and gender, I can answer you most definitely, yes! The simple truth is that I cannot be looked on as being only one person. I could easily voice my own opinions about the many questions that come my way, but in fact I often need to consult with individuals who may be more qualified. You wouldn't want your plumber fixing your teeth, and by the same token, I wouldn't attempt to provide answers to questions I know nothing about. Don't get me wrong, I have been around the bend a few times, but I realize the importance of not giving out bad advice. This, in a sense, is also the answer to your final question. When someone shows signs of needing more than a kind word, I will always refer them to a more qualified source in solving their problem. I hope I was able to answer the bulk of you questions. Thanks for writing and for your vigilant attention!

HRCF ...continued from pg. 9

Candace Gingrich's presence at the HRCF's leadership conference and lobbying day brought unprecedented media coverage. Usually lobbying days attract no TV cameras, but 20 cameras were present this year. Candace Gingrich also showed that many families, even those of conservative Republicans have gay and lesbian members. Eventhough she was unable to convince her brother to support gay and lesbian civil rights, she brought the gay and lesbian community positive media attention, and ultimately showed that her brother has a problem with homophobia.

McHale to Co-Sponsor ENDA

After the meeting with Sen. Arlen Specter, Steve Black met with Lehigh Valley Congressman Paul McHale in his Washington office. Black thanked the Congressman for recently signing the statement that he will not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in employment with his office and for pledging to support the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. "I thanked him for saying he would vote for ENDA, but I reminded him that gays and lesbians in the Lehigh Valley have no protection from discrimination in the workplace. I pointed out some specifics of the bill like the fact it excludes small businesses and prohibits quotas. McHale then agreed to co-sponsor the bill."

Previously, McHale has declined to co-sponsor ENDA. Black attributes the change to the numerous letters gay and lesbian constituents wrote last summer during the FAN computer letter program at Stonewall and Diamondz. He now joins three other Pennsylvania Congressman (Foglietta and Fattah of Philadelphia and Coyne of Pittsburgh) who have pledged to co-sponsor ENDA. LGLV encourages residents of McHale's district to write to thank him for pledging to co-sponsor and encouraging him to follow through on that pledge. Letters can be sent to: The Honorable Paul McHale, 217 Cannon Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

During the lobbying day, League of Gay and Lesbian Voters Vice Chair Steve Black was able to meet with staff of eight Pennsylvania senators and congressman. These included: McHale, Specter, Santorum, Foglietta, Fattah, Weldon, Kanjorski, and Mascara. "LGLV has started a dialogue with these congressman's offices. We hope to expand our conversations with them on gay and lesbian issues. We will continue to seek meetings with the representatives and prod them to take positions on our issues," stated Black.

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AUSTIN ...continued from pg. 24

Charlies (1301 Lavaca) is a little distant from the other clubs. This, the oldest gay club in Austin, attracts its share of young studs with special attractions. A Tuesday barbecue is inexpensive and draws up to 200 people, many of which stay for their amateur strip night. 'Bout Time (9601 Hyw 35, North at Rundberg) is the only "out there" bar. Located north of town, among the \$30 motels, this tavern style club is casual, but not boring. Suburban gays nesting in this area fill the club at key hours.

Friendly volleyball, pool, yard cookouts, and easy parking can be found here. What can't be found is the flat image of Texas and the tumbleweed. Abundant hills remind me more of Pennsylvania. About fifty years ago, a series of dams were built in this area, flooding the valleys. Today, there's lots of opportunity for water lovers and Realtors alike. Drive around to see the expensive homes built over the lakes or get directions to Hippy Hollow. This local park has a section of beach where nude sunbathing is allowed, with gays dominating the furthest section.

So, it sounds like fun, but what about the bad weather days? Well, you could clean, shop, or even apply for a job. Growth in high tech industries means there are great jobs available. And good news!, they hire qualified outsiders. Over half of the Austinites come from somewhere else. Who knows, you might get a job, a raise, a better apartment, or even a great tan!

Stephen Paul Sedlock

1/12/64 - 3/4/95

*When we look back on
our many memories, we
will always have fond
thoughts of you.*

Stephen Paul Sedlock, a long time friend to so many of us within the local community, passed away on Saturday, March 4th.

He was much loved for his cheery, giving personality and greatly admired for his wonderful cooking abilities and homemade gourmet cheesecakes.

Stephen will always live on through the loving memories of Michael, and the many friends and family members who will hold a part of him, forever in their hearts.

NYC for IHI

On Sat. Feb. 25th two local therapists took the 5:30 am bus into NYC to attend a day long conference sponsored by the Institute for Human Identity. Jacqueline Marish and Liz Fox describe IHI as a nonprofit lesbian and gay therapy center, founded in 1973, which holds an annual conference focused on exploring a wide range of treatment related issues addressing the mental health needs of lesbians, gay men and their families.

The keynote address followed the reading of names of people who had died of AIDS related illness within the past year. As would be expected, this was a time where no one rustled papers, coughed, or moved in their seat. It was total silence out of total respect.

Dr. Ronnie Lesser, the keynote speaker, is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at City College of New York as well as the coeditor of Discontented Sexualities. She introduced her address as "provocative and controversial" and went on to speak about the idea that psychological theories of mental health are actually nothing more than social constructs that fit the current socio-political culture. Dr. Lesser, founding member of the Committee on Gay and Lesbian Concerns, found a receptive audience in Liz and Jacqueline who nodded positive acknowledgments to each other throughout the address. The audience as a whole was equally impressed by evidence of the lengthy applause Dr. Lesser received at the end of her address.

Jacqueline, who has recently signed on as a regular columnist for AboveGround, holds a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Kutztown University. She has been in private practice for 16 years, and has had extensive experience in a local psychiatric setting prior to that. Liz, who is currently earning her Master's in Counseling Psychology, has had 9 years of clinical experience at a local hospital, specifically oriented to adolescent psychiatry. At that facility, she has recently been nominated for an award recognizing excellence in clinical skills. Both women had served as interim board members of the steering committee of the L.V. Gay and Lesbian Task Force. They were both elected to the board at the founders' meeting. Jacqueline resigned her position as of January of this year, while Liz will remain on the board until her position ends in May, 1996.

To achieve the fullest impact of the conference, each of the two women went to three different workshops. Reflecting on the various workshop themes, they mentioned two, one of which dealt with spirituality and the other with HIV- gay men.

"Integrating Spirituality into Treatment" addressed the more problematic struggle that lesbians, gays and bisexuals have with spirituality. Discussion centered on identifying functional and dysfunctional

aspects of spirituality; the impact of homophobia, sexism and erotophobia on clients' spirituality and world view; and keeping the therapist's personal beliefs from intruding on the treatment. The workshop identified that ridding oneself of childhood images of God is essential since they are no longer workable for adults. A profound break in the spirituality of childhood occurs with a traumatic event, and for homosexual and bisexual people the traumatic event is their identity. Because there is an abnormality ascribed to bi and homosexuality, and because it is an internal struggle, there is a lack of response from others. There is a greater ability for others to respond in a supportive manner to people whose traumatic event is the death of a parent, a suicide, rape or physical disfigurement. Thus, spirituality may not be integrated into adults who are gay, lesbian or bisexual.

"The Unrecognized Dynamics of HIV negative Gay Men" addressed specific psychological and social stressors affecting HIV- men. Facilitating a support group for these men, the workshop leader spoke of a "failure to thrive" component that was evident among the men. Failure to thrive involves issues such as the anticipation of many losses, lack of direction regarding the future, questions of where one fits into the gay culture, and reluctance to commit to a relationship. Failure-to-thrive dynamic may be expressed as listlessness, depression, guilt over hiv- status, and avoidance of situations where status might be mentioned. An urgent need to further psychological and emotional dimensions that may lead to self-deprivation and self-negating behaviors.

Jacqueline and Liz have shown an obvious commitment to the polishing and stretching of their clinical skills. Both agreed that the conference was well worth their day, time, energy and expense, and that the knowledge gleaned would be incorporated into their own practices. Both women should be applauded for their efforts in helping our diverse community as it moves ever forward in achieving psychological wellness.

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610-432-0215

AIDS Related Groups

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112 N. 5th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-8424

AIDS Services Center
60 W. Broad St.
Suite 205
Bethlehem, PA 18108
610-974-8701

F.A.C.T.
P.O. Box 1028
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610-820-5519

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Religious Groups

Universal Life Church, Inc.
Rev. Joel S. Diehl, DD, MsD.
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610-740-0247

MCC of the Lehigh Valley
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Allentown, PA 18102
(610)439-8755

Integrity
610-395-1785
610-758-8642

Misc. Organizations

PRIDE
of the Lehigh Valley
P.O. Box 20804
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-770-6200

Lehigh Valley
Gay Men's Chorus
P.O. Box 20712
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-740-0247
610-821-0578

Lehigh Valley Gay &
Lesbian Task Force
PO Box 20253
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-515-1551

P-FLAG c/o Barbara Fasick
2040 Lehigh St. #710
Easton, PA 18042
610-258-4794

League of Gay &
Lesbian Voters
Lehigh Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 20781
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-0781
(610) 437-2294

Lehigh Valley Lesbians
Unitarian Univ. Church
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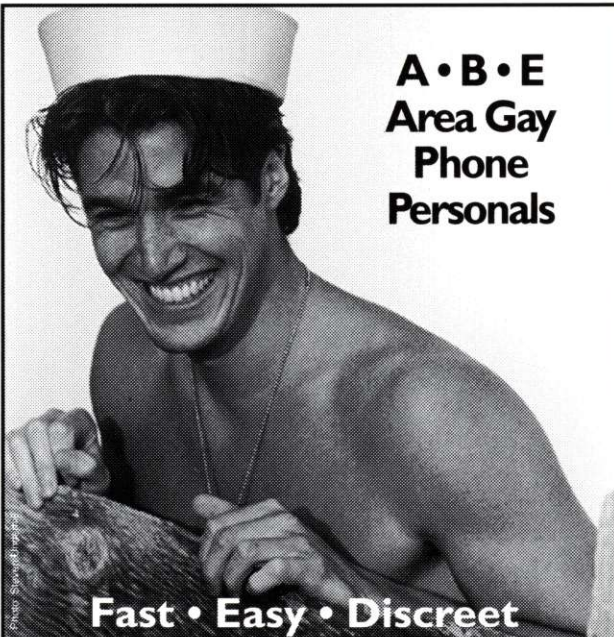
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